

Pretty Soft For Herrick

He Did Not Get the Orders From France, But His Son Sold Sixty Million Dollars Worth of Bonds for the French, and If Herrick Is Elected Senator, His Son Will Sell Sixty Millions More.

Mr. Morris Tells Why Herrick Quit the Job In Paris to Help His Poor Son In Cleveland.

Columbus, O., Sept. 25.—The relations of the withdrawal of Myron T. Herrick, Ohio Republican candidate for United States Senator, from the post of Ambassador to France, the placing of large war orders in America coincident to his return home, and the use of the word "supersede," by Charles E. Hughes, Republican presidential candidate, in direct criticism of the Administration for Herrick's withdrawal in indorsing the former Ambassador, is questioned in an open letter today addressed by Charles E. Morris, state Democratic publicity agent, to Mr. Hughes.

After quoting the indorsement of Mr. Herrick by Hughes in an address July 31, which concluded with the words, "Yet the Administration permitted itself to supersede him," the letter says the records show that Mr. Herrick voluntarily sought his release from his post in France, as "his personal business needed his attention."

Mr. Morris then said in May, 1916, the Gaston Williams and Wigmore Company, of New York, organized in 1914, procured war orders amounting to millions of dollars simultaneous with the return of Mr. Herrick, and asserted that Mr. Wigmore had been associated with Mr. Herrick before going to New York, and that Mr. Williams met Mr. Wigmore through Mr. Herrick. Morris states that the contracts were of French origin and infers that Mr. Herrick had a private interest in war ventures.

Parmalee Herrick, son of Myron T. Herrick, is Director of the Bonbright-Herrick Company, which handled \$60,000,000 worth of Anglo-French war bonds in Ohio, says Morris, and in conclusion asks "whether Myron T. Herrick was an instrument in securing this business and if so, whether it was arranged while he was Peace Envoy of the United States to France, or whether it was secured through connections then established by him?"

Morris's letter to Hughes follows:

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"Myron T. Herrick, Republican candidate for United States Senator from Ohio, as a former Ambassador to France, was by you made a campaign issue in your speech of July 31. By your unqualified indorsement at that time, when Ohio was having a primary election campaign, you aided in Mr. Herrick's nomination, which he assured to himself by the admitted lavish expenditure of \$50,639.34. Mr. Herrick is now a candidate before all the people. Having been made a national issue by you, it is not impertinent to ask you for information to clear up a situation that now seems clouded.

"In your speech on July 31, among other things, you said of Mr. Herrick: 'No diplomat ever won more completely the affections of a foreign people, and there was no better fortune for this country than to have at the capital of one of the belligerent nations a representative thus esteemed. Yet the Administration permitted itself to supersede him.'

"You have emphasized your indorsement at Dayton September 25.

"The text of your statement concerning him purposely conveyed the impression that Myron T. Herrick had been recalled, dismissed, discharged, fired.

"The records of the State Department show that Myron T. Herrick was relieved at his own urgent demand made at various times. But some things the records do not show you may be able to supply. It is right to assume that you have full knowledge of the facts, having given so complete an approval of the man.

Myron T. Herrick asked that he be relieved and became insistent early in the year 1914. Some months later his demand became more urgent because it was reported his personal business needed his attention. In November, 1914, he returned from Paris.

"On October 10, 1914, the Gaston, Williams & Wigmore Company was organized with an original capital of \$1,000. In May, 1916, a national magazine told the story of the company's fabulous growth under title, 'From \$1,000 to \$5,000,000 in one year.' This company within 18 months after organization had been increased 300,000 shares, offered at \$60 per share, with \$5,000,000 in notes. Its total export business was quoted at \$50,000,000, and it was stated that more than \$5,000,000 in profits had been taken. Its stock was listed at the New York Exchange. Soon the company announced an order of \$12,000,000 worth of contracts from the Allied Powers, for whom it had already placed millions of dollars worth of war orders. More recently it announced the securing of the exclusive foreign agency of a manufacturing company which has taken orders, according to news reports, for upward of \$100,000,000 worth of rifles for the Allied Powers. Most of the business has been handled through French channels.

"Gaston, Williams & Wigmore were guaranteed by a New York guarantee and trust company in which they had been subordinates. J. A. Wigmore, it was told, had been associated with Myron T. Herrick in business before going to New York, and that he had been introduced to Williams in New York by Mr. Herrick. George A. Gaston came in touch with them through the company by which they had been employed.

"The growth of the Gaston, Williams & Wigmore Company, placing contracts for the Allied Powers, began simultaneously with the return from Europe of Ambassador Myron T. Herrick.

"In Cleveland, the home of Mr. Herrick, many manufacturers appeared seeking orders for such supplies as armies need. No secret was made of whom they desired to see.

"The Gaston, Williams & Wigmore Company now has agencies in London, Paris and Petrograd, the principal seats of the Allied Powers.

"The people of the United States have a right to inquire whether or not Mr. Herrick was instrumental in securing business for this company, and to know, if he did, whether Mr. Herrick brought the orders back with him when he was superseded as Ambassador or whether he secured them directly or indirectly by virtue of connections he made while a peace envoy of this country in a warring land.

"The people have a right to ask this information of you, who told of the good fortune it was to have at the capital of one of the belligerent nations (France) a representative thus esteemed. 'Recently there was offered in Ohio from the Bonbright-Herrick Company an

issue of \$60,000,000 worth of Anglo-French war bonds, a part of the issue handled by the J. P. Morgan Company. It is known in financial circles that Mr. Herrick has been the intermediary in Ohio for Wall street bankers for many years. In the Bonbright-Herrick Company, which placed these bonds for the aid and assistance of the Allied Powers, Parmalee Herrick, only son and heir of Myron T. Herrick, is Director.

"Again, Mr. Hughes, the people of the United States as well as the people of Ohio have a right to ask whether or not Myron T. Herrick was an instrument in securing this business, and if so whether it was arranged while he was a peace envoy of the United States in France, or whether it was secured through connections then established by him.

"These things have been rumored in Ohio for a long time. It is only fair that the people may have the facts. Letters concerning this have been written from Maine to California, and since you have made a campaign issue of Mr. Herrick, you must accept with him the responsibility of answer to the questions in those letters which demand information.

"In Ohio the lavish expenditure of money by Mr. Herrick may well be explained by his desire to get an office in which he 'may round out his career.' A dull imagination might supply the reason why he is backed for election by those who profit by war. With the former you have no connection and possibly no interest. But you have indorsed the record of Mr. Herrick as a foreign agent, and, having assumed to speak for him in that regard, questions concerning that record are pertinent to you.

"Had you been President and had you known or suspected an Ambassador to be using his post for commercial advancement, would you have permitted yourself to 'supersede' him? What would you have done, Mr. Hughes?"

The following is a copy of an original letter from an influential man in business circles to Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo. The name of the signer for obvious reasons is withheld. The original of the letter is in official files and follows:

"I notice that Mr. Hughes seems inclined to inject Mr. Herrick's case into the campaign, and it occurred to me that perhaps the following story, which I have been told by former New York men, may be of interest to you. I cannot vouch for the truth of it, but that can be easily ascertained.

"It seems that upon Mr. Herrick's return to this country he organized a corporation in New York, known as Gaston, Williams & Wigmore, Inc., whose offices are on Williams street, all three of these parties being clerks or subordinate officers in the Guarantee Trust Company.

"This concern, under Mr. Herrick's direction, then proceeded to acquire contracts with the following motor car companies for their exclusive foreign business: Packard, Peerless, Locomobile and Pierce Arrow, the Guarantee Trust Company acting as guarantor for Gaston, Williams & Wigmore. When the contracts had been secured from these motor car companies it is said that Mr. Herrick produced a great volume of orders from foreign countries, which he had brought over with him, and it is said that the concern now claims to have sold foreign countries over \$130,000,000 worth of trucks. It also handles blankets and such other goods as the allies may need, and has offices in London, Paris and Petrograd, as well as Havana, the latter as a purchasing office.

"If this story is correct it is not surprising that Mr. Herrick resigned, but may be of interest if he secured these orders before or since leaving Europe because of his former influential position. If true it is no wonder that they criticize our great President's policy of keeping this country out of war.

"Democrats out here are in the minority, and it may be of interest to you that Mr. Hughes appears to have lost strength with Republicans since his nomination, and his speeches have failed to arouse any interest."

NEW UNION IS GROWING.

Rochester, N. Y.—The new union of furniture finishers, recently formed in this city, is increasing in membership rapidly. It was organized by John Baker with more than one hundred members and that number has been greatly increased. For some time past there has been general dissatisfaction among the furniture finishers of this city over working conditions and the low wages paid, and the new union is the result of the persistent agitation that has been kept up.

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